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A Relation of the Attacking and Taking of the Fort of St. Michael, Sept 18. N.S.

by Her Majesty's Forces, and those of the Allies, under the Command of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Cutts.

Published by Authority.

ON Monday the 18th Instant, the Rt. Honourable the Lord *Cutts* was commanded to attack the Fort, between the Bastion that is next the Plain, and the Ravelin that lies on the North-side of it, having under his Command Brigadier General *Hamilton* with the Royal Regiment of *Ireland*, and General *Hukelome*'s Regiment, with 172 Granadiers, and 100 Fusiliers, most of them *English*, under the Command of a Lieutenant-Colonel; as also 300 Workmen, with a suitable number of Engineers, under Direction of Colonel *Blood*; his Lordship's Orders being to make a Lodgment from the Point of the Ravelin to the Bastion, leaving him at the same time at liberty to proceed farther, if he should judge it practicable.

The Prince of *Anhalt* with the same number of Troops was to make an Attack between the Bastion and the Ravelin that lies on the South-side, with Orders to make a Lodgment, or to proceed farther as he should see occasion; The Signal for both Attacks was to be the blowing up a Tun of Powder, and the Discharge of all our Batteries, both Cannon and Mortars: The Disposition of each Attack was agreed to be as follows;

The first Commanded out of the Trenches, was to be 2 Serjeants with 12 Granadiers each, who were immediately to be follow'd by 2 Lieutenants and 24 Granadiers each, and they by a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign with 50 Granadiers; the rest of the Forces, as well the Detachments as Battalions and Workmen, were to move at such Time, and in such Numbers, as the General that commanded the Attack should think fit.

A little before Six in the evening the Attack began. His Lordship had given Orders on his Attack, to the Officers that led the Granadiers, first, to clear the covered way of the Enemy; and if they saw it practicable when that was done, to attack the Ravelin, Sword in hand, assuring them, in the hearing of all the Granadiers, That so soon as his Lordship saw 50 Granadiers upon the top of the Ravelin, he would sacrifice himself, and all the Troops, rather than not sustain them, and that therefore they might go on with Assurance, if they found it possible to pass; promising Rewards in Her Majesty's Name to such as should signalize themselves by very remarkable Actions. His Lordship's Orders were executed with an unspeakable Vigour and Chearfulness, and as soon as the Granadiers, whom his Lordship sustain'd with fresh Numbers, had clear'd the Counterscarp with their Fire, (the Enemy having sprung a Fougade without doing us any hurt) they attacked the Ravelin Sword in hand, encouraging and helping one another, upon the Assurance of being seconded, which, as soon as his Lordship perceiv'd, he resolv'd to lose no time, but to march with all his Force, and engage the whole Affair, which immediately his Lordship did, and was soon Master of the Ravelin. The Enemy then made a great Fire upon us from the Rampart of the Fort; upon which his Lordship sent Orders to the Officers that were at the head of the Granadiers, to throw in their Granades, and attack the Fort Sword in hand, if it were possible by any Means to find a Passage, which they did by charging and following the Enemy so close, that they did not give them time to break their Bridge, though it was hotly disputed by Fire and push of Pike, and particularly by the Enemy's Granadiers from the Flank of one of their Bastions; but by the Bravery of the Granadiers, especially the *English*, by the Example of their Officers, and some Volunteers of distinction, particularly my Lord *Huntington*, my Lord *Lorn*, my Lord *Marchm*, the Prince *d'Auvern*, Mr. *Dalrimple*, Sir *Richard Temple*, and Colonel *Webb*: Some of them attacked the Bridge, and some clamber'd up the Rampart, after having thrown in their Granades, and forc'd their way into the Fort, where the Enemy continu'd to defend themselves, till we power'd in so fast upon them, that they were no longer able to resist, which, as soon as the *English* perceiv'd, they ceas'd to kill any more of them.

There were taken about 200 Prisoners; amongst which were 30 Officers, with a Brigadier General, and the Governor; all the rest, to the number of 500 effective Men, as his Lordship was assured by the Major of the Fort, who is a Prisoner, were kill'd or drown'd endeavouring to escape, except 12, who had the good Fortune to pass the *Meuse* in small Boats, which his Lordship was farther assur'd of by a Drummer from Monsieur *Labbadé* sent to him into the Fort the next morning, to enquire after some Persons of Distinction, who are missing. When his Lordship found himself entirely in possession of the Fort, having left 400 Men in the Out-Works, posted a Guard at the great Port towards the Town, and a small Guard at each Sally-Port, seiz'd the Magazines, and sent out 100 Granadiers to discover upon the side of the *Meuse* if any of the Enemy were there: His Lordship drew up the rest of the Troops upon the Rampart towards the Town, and turning the Enemy's Cannon upon them, his Lordship made a discharge to give notice to our own Camp, that all was well, and continu'd under Arms all night.

There were in this Action of Her Majesty's Subjects, 2 Captains wounded, 2 Lieutenants wounded, 1 Ensign kill'd and 3 wounded, one Serjeant kill'd and six wounded, 30 Soldiers kill'd and 132 wounded, and his Lordship's own *Aid de Camp* (Captain *Rolas*) with Mr. *Clay*, an *English* Voluntier, kill'd dead on the spot.

There never was seen in any Action more Bravery than was shewn by every body, both Officers and Soldiers (upon this occasion) of the respective Nations that were under his Lordship's Command, and especially by Her Majesty's Subjects.

There were in the Fort 15 pieces of Cannon and two Mortars, and a very considerable Quantity of Ammunition of all sorts; as also of Wine and Brandy, which the Soldiers soon found out, and were indulg'd in it during the Night, to encourage them after so vigorous an Action.

Whilst this happen'd upon his Lordship's Attack, he was too busie to observe what pass'd at the Prince of *Anhalt's*; but his Lordship has been since inform'd by Credible Persons who were at it, That that Prince behav'd himself with a Gallantry suitable to his Birth, and that his Troops, by his Example, Attack'd with all the Vigour imaginable, carrying the Ravelin on their side, Sword in Hand; but the Enemy having broke the Bridge between that Ravelin and the Fort, though some of the *Prussians* lept into the *Fossee* and swam over, it was impossible for the rest of their Troops to pass.

This Action was of great consequence, in as much as the taking of the Fort hasten'd our being Masters of the Town, which will secure the Country of *Cleves*, *&c.* and three of the best Provinces in *Holland*; and at the same time put the Confederates in a condition to take the Field the next Campagne, upon a very advantageous Foot.

The Prince of *Hanover*, who is a Voluntier here, and past the night before the Attack in the Trenches with his Lordship, behav'd himself with a great deal of Gallantry, and staid most part of the night with his Lordship in the Fort.

Colonel *Blood*, who acts as first Engineer under Monsieur *Coehoorns*, and was to have made the Lodgment when he saw his Lordship had quitted that Design, acted the part of a good Officer, charging with the Men Sword in Hand, and killing an Officer of Granadiers who made a very vigorous Defence with his Party; and Monsieur *de la Martiniere*, an Engineer lately sent from *England* by his Royal Highness, was very useful to us in this Action, as well upon the account of his Skill in attacking Places, as his Intrepedity.

There is as yet no Account what the Foreigners under his Lordship's Command lost in this Action; but their Loss is said to be less than that of the *English*.

Printed by *Edw. Jones* in the *Savoy*. 1702.

297. RELATION of the Attacking and Taking of the Fort of St Michael, Sept.18.N.S. by Her Majesty's Forces ... under ... the Lord Cutts. Printed by Edw. Jones in the Savoy. 1702

Folio, uncut; somewhat browned, a marginal tear. The quite dashing, conceited Cutts ('brave and brainless as the sword he wears', suggested Swift) riskily took Fort St Michael, an outpost of Venloo, when serving under Marlborough in the Netherlands. He was dedicatee of Steele's *Christian Hero*.